

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2828
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
Millennium Challenge Corporation
P. Shri Nagarajan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether the Government has joined hands with the US Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to strengthen regional integration and connectivity particularly in the areas of energy, trade and investment in third countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner and system by which the above objectives will be achieved?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

(a) to (c) India and the US share a strong commitment to promoting economic growth and development, and regional cooperation and connectivity. In this regard, the Development Partnership Administration (DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of USA, through a Joint Statement issued on 13 January 2017 have expressed their intent to cooperate for mutual benefit to strengthen regional integration and connectivity, particularly in the areas of energy, trade, and investment.

The collaboration may include the following topics and projects:

• Exchange of information and experience in relevant sectors or issues pertaining to project development or implementation in Partner Countries (mutually-identified countries or regions);

• Providing advisory or technical assistance to Partner Countries regarding sector policy reform, project and sector management, project implementation, and economic growth promotion strategies in relevant sectors;

• Facilitating site visits to cross-border or other relevant projects; and

• Capacity building of Partner Countries.

Both sides are in discussion to identify concrete proposals for implementation.